

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00

SAJ-01 EA-06 OES-02 EB-03 SP-02 L-01 PRS-01 /049 W

----- 057746

R 061821Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 369

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION BERLIN

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5203

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GDR, UR, EEWT

SUBJECT: FONMIN'S FISCHER'S TRIP TO MOSCOW

REF: BERLIN 5144

1. AT LUNCH ON FEBRUARY 5 WITH DR. GEYER (DIRECTOR OF THE NORTH AMERICAN SECTION OF THE GDR FOREIGN MINISTRY), DCM ASKED WHETHER THERE WAS ANYTHING DR. GEYER COULD SAY ABOUT THE VISIT TO MOSCOW JANUARY 27-28 OF GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, POLITBURO MEMBER HERMANN AXEN, AND SOVIET AMBASSADOR YEFREMOV (REFTEL).

2. DR. GEYER OBSERVED THAT IT WAS NORMAL AT THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR TO DISCUSS IN MOSCOW THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES THAT LIE AHEAD. FONMIN FISCHER'S VISIT SHOULD BE SEEN IN THIS LIGHT.

3. AFTER A MOMENT'S REFLECTION, DR. GEYER THEN SAID IN
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HAD DISCUSSED WITH GDR OFFICIALS WAS THE US TRADE AGREEMENT AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR SOVIET POLICY AND FOR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. DR. GEYER DESCRIBED SOVIET OFFICIALS AS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN AN ASSESSMENT OF WHAT THE TRADE AGREEMENT, AND ITS REJECTION, WILL MEAN FOR THE FUTURE COURSE OF US-SOVIET RELATIONS. HE SAID THE RUSSIANS HAD DISCUSSED THE TRADE AGREEMENT IN THE CONTEXT OF DETENTE, AND HAD TOLD GDR OFFICIALS THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHAT WAS AGREED UPON AT VLADIVOSTOK WOULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE OF SOVIET POLICY. DR. GEYER DESCRIBED THE TRADE BILL AS "A HEAVY BLOW", BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE FRAMEWORK OF DETENTE REMAINED INTACT.COOPER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BERLIN05203
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750044-0690
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750268/aaaacitv.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 BERLIN 5144
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <15 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FONMIN'S FISCHER'S TRIP TO MOSCOW
TAGS: PFOR, EEWT, GC, UR, (FISCHER, OSKAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006